

# FOCUS

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## JCA starts remedial classes for kids

The sounds of children fill the JCA Centre on Saturday mornings, as about 17 students and their tutors tackle remedial lessons in mathematics and English, and study their heritage.

The JCA's new Saturday morning classes also offer arts and crafts and Tae Kwon Do to children ranging in age from 7 to 13. The classes run from 9 am to noon, and attendance is free.

"The main objectives of the program are to encourage a positive attitude towards education among young people; and to link teachers, parents and the community in the education of our youth," says Billroy Powell, JCA Community Development Worker.

Powell initiated the program with support from Education Chairperson Herman Stewart, Social Committee Chairperson



*Pre-adolescents get help with academics from tutors who are university students.*

Norma Larro, other Board members, and Family Service Worker Christine Brown. Powell and Brown visited and interviewed parents and their children about joining the program. Tutors were selected from the JCA's Pal Program which matches youth with adult role models.


The program is wholly funded by the JCA. Negotiations are underway with the Equal Opportunity Department of the Toronto Board of Education for additional funds.

At the launch of the program on Jan. 11, JCA president Nehemiah Bailey praised the parents in attendance for their involvement in their children's education. Bailey also thanked the university students who volunteered their services to the community by becoming tutors.

The Program is scheduled to run until August, after which it will be evaluated. Depending on the interest, additional days for classes may become available in the summer.

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## Let us not abandon our vulnerable

By Billroy Powell

The death of street person Eugenia Balcombe last December from freezing sent shock waves through Metropolitan Toronto and, in particular, the Black community. By the reaction, one could easily have been led to believe that members of our society were unaware of the large number of people who live on the streets of our city.

The coverage and the attention given to Eugenia by the news media and the general public was unbelievable. The irony is that if she had received only a fraction of this attention while she was alive, she could very well have been with us today.

Currently in Metro, the hostels catering to street people represent 2,300 beds with a 90% percent occupancy level. But that does not give a true picture of how many street people we have—an undetermined number do not seek assistance, and that figure could be as high as 2,000.

Eugenia's unfortunate death sends us a message: the aged and the mentally disturbed are most vulnerable to unfavorable social and climatic conditions. There is no escaping this reality, and it is time to formulate a plan of action to deal with the problem of street people.

The first responsibility lies with each and everyone of us to care for and protect those within our families. We must extend to them warmth and understanding, make them feel wanted and secure. Instead of turning our relatives and loved ones out on the streets to fend for themselves, we should seek out appropriate institutions and agencies that cater to their needs. Knowing that they are safe and getting help, we still should not abandon them. We should visit them, and let them know they can count on us.

The Black community is probably the only ethno-racial group of its size without facilities for its aged and mentally disturbed. At present, the JCA is negotiating with several government ministries to set up non-profit housing that would benefit seniors. However, the situation needs immediate, community-wide attention. It is time we take an undivided stand on something, and this is the best issue to do it on.

Let's pay homage to Eugenia with a home for those who are still roaming our city's streets. We owe her memory this much.

## 29 YEARS OF SERVICE to the Black Community

### Jamaican Canadian Association Services

**Community Development** -- focusses on networking, sharing of information and resources with others in the interests of the community.

**Settlement Services** -- provides information, orientation and settlement services to landed immigrants or holders of Minister's permits.

**Caribbean Youth and Family Services** -- provides counselling, employment preparation, socio-cultural support and leadership for Black youth aged 12-15, living primarily in the Jane-Finch neighbourhood. Coordinates the PAL program, which matches adult volunteers with young people in need of or seeking guidance.

**Lawrence Heights Youth Program** -- a satellite program, integrating personal development with cultural reinforcement. Runs the Afrocentric Achievement Society, the Shoot for a Career program (combining sports with academics), and Project ROJ (Reading on the Job).

For more information on the above services, please contact the JCA Office, 1621 Dupont Street, Toronto, Ontario M6P 3S8, telephone 535-4476; or the CYFS Office, 2065 Finch Ave. W., Suite 102, Downsview, Ontario M3N 2V7, telephone 740-1558.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

### Celebrate 30 years: donate to the JCA relocation fund!

By Nehemiah Bailey

This year will be 30 years since the Jamaican Canadian Association is in existence. It will also be the 30th anniversary of Jamaica's independence. We are proud of our organization's accomplishments, and the great relationships we have maintained with Jamaicans here, at home, and those representing the Jamaican government.

Every five years in the past we have joined with other Jamaican groups to celebrate. This year, we hope to continue the tradition. Plans are underway to coordinate one big celebration during the first weekend of August. Further details will be given as soon as they become available.

#### Annual General Meeting

Sunday, Feb. 23, will be the annual general meeting and election of officers to the JCA Board. By now you should have heard from the Nomination Committee. Plan to attend the meeting, and be prepared to take part in choosing the leadership of the Association.

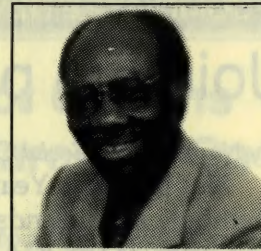
Like most community organizations, the JCA relies on volunteers to ensure its continued development. A great deal de-

pends on the involvement of youths from our community. They are the future leaders, who will carry on what we have started. Let's encourage young people to get involved in the JCA now.

#### Staff news

The JCA is always concerned with the welfare and progress of Black students. In January we added Saturday morning education upgrading classes at the JCA Centre to our programs. The classes were initiated by Mr. Billroy Powell, our Community Development Worker. My sincere thanks and appreciation to all who have come forward to support the launch of this program—especially the university students volunteering as tutors. We trust that the enthusiasm with which the program started will continue throughout the year.

Assault and abuse of women and children is also a primary issue with the JCA. Therefore, we welcome the assistance we received from the Ministry of the Solicitor General, which enabled us to employ a new Women's Assault/Abuse Counsellor in December. Her name is Ms. Verolin



Rickettes-Spence and I welcome her to the JCA.

#### Scholarship

Four and a half years ago, during the 25th anniversary celebration, a scholarship fund in Marcus Garvey's name was set up with the JCA as one of the major contributors. A special committee, under the guardianship of the Jamaican Consulate General in Toronto, would administer this program. It was decided that the focus would be teacher training, and Mico Teachers' College in Jamaica was selected to receive the scholarships. The first two recipients have graduated and are currently making their contribution to Jamaica's educational system. Three students have already been selected for the 1991/1992 awards. The JCA will continue to support this worthwhile program.

Continued on page 4

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## Join the planning for our 30th anniversary

By Norma Larro, Social Committee

Happy New Year to all our members and friends! We hope you were at the JCA Centre celebrating with us on New Year's Eve. If so you already know what a good party it was.

Frank Wallace with his "Lightworks," transformed the Centre magnificently. It certainly contributed to the mood of the patrons and the success of the evening. Thanks Frank.

Just heard that our Consul General, Kay Baxter, is being re-posted to New York. She will be sorely missed. Good luck, Kay!

Although Kay is leaving, she has promised to come back and help us plan the Independence Gala. We are glad to have her personal commitment and continued support. We also look forward to working with the future Toronto Consul General.

Congratulations to the Social Committee team who performed so very well over the past year. Members approached their tasks with energy, and in a responsible, professional manner. It was a pleasure for me to work with such a wonderful group of people. It

### President's desk

continued from page 3

The scholarship was the main financial objective for organizations getting together for the 25th anniversary. We would like to make the relocation funding for the JCA Centre the main objective for the upcoming 30th anniversary celebrations. So please come aboard and help us make this a reality.

We are grateful for the accomplishments of 1991, and wish for all of us better things in 1992.

made my job as Chair a lot easier.

Thanks also to fellow Board members, the many volunteers and friends of the Association who pitched in and helped us get the job done. Those gestures, in my mind reflect the true spirit of co-operation.

A warm thank you to the following sponsors for donating gate prizes:

Oshawa Group, gift certificates;  
Miracle Mart, gift certificate  
Sidney Weir, crystals;  
Cyndi Anderson, crystals;  
Mr. & Mrs. Amiel, white rum;  
Mr. & Mrs. H. Stewart, scotch.

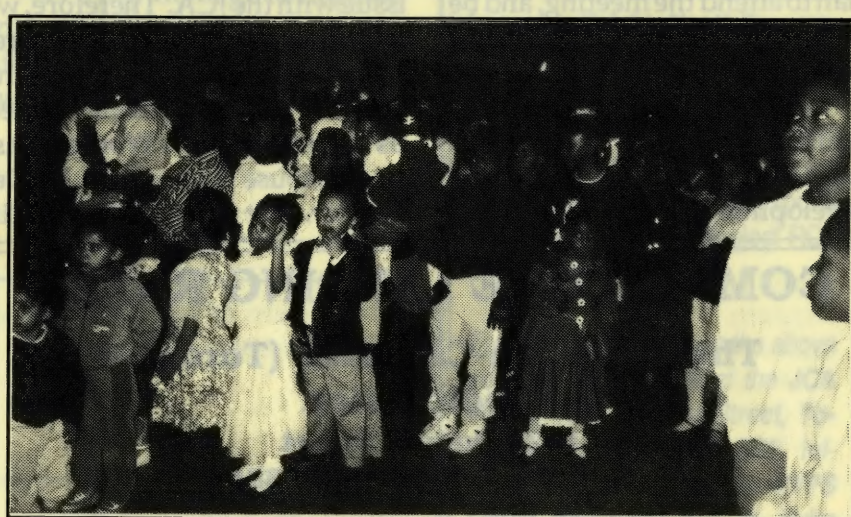
Special thanks, also, to Mr. Jerk of Malton and Don Mills for lending their expertise to preparing the roast beef and chicken. We would like to mention to you, JCA members, that a word of appreciation to these sponsors next time you visit one of their establishments would be quite in order. They support our organization, so we encourage you to give them your support.

Special thanks to Mrs. Hillar

Brown and the catering staff who pinch hit for the Catering Chair, and did an outstanding job with their culinary tasks. Thanks for a job well-done!

August 6 will mark 30 years since Jamaica's Independence, and the JCA's formation. A planning committee is being put in place to oversee the events leading up to and including the Grand Gala Ball, to be held at the Inn on the Park Hotel in Don Mills.

If you are artistic and want to try your hand, why not send us your sketch and designs depicting this joint 30th Anniversary, to be possibly reproduced on the cover of the souvenir program? We are also searching for ideas for a slogan expressing the theme for the year's celebrations. Mail your submissions to the *Jamaican Canadian Association, 1621 Dupont St., Toronto, M6P 3S8, Attention Social Committee*. Watch upcoming issues of *In Focus* and the local Community newspapers for more details.



WE'VE BEEN GOOD! A full house of children, dressed in their finest, were on hand to greet Santa Claus at the JCA Children's Christmas Party at the JCA Centre in December.

## New Year's raffle a success

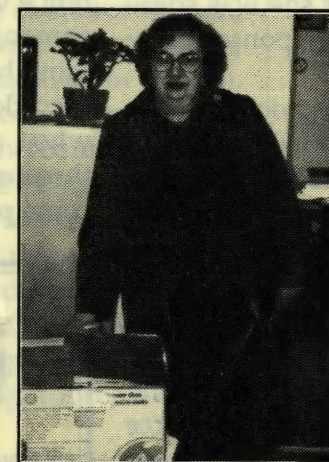
By Daphne Bailey, Fundraising

Our Chairperson recently resigned due to reasons beyond her control. However, the Fundraising Committee is alive and well, and functioning

Our most recent venture, the raffle which was drawn on New Year's Eve, was fairly successful. I would like to thank all those stalwarts who pitched in to make that event a success. The five winners of raffle ticket prizes are:

- 1st - Chiron Robinson, ticket #0691
- 2nd - S. White, ticket #5261
- 3rd - D. Inievie, ticket #3693
- 4th - Olive Castello, ticket #09176
- 5th - Diane, ticket #4733

With the annual general meeting approaching, we are hoping that this Committee will once again have a chairperson. Thanks again for your support.



RAFFLE WINNERS:  
Chiron Robinson (left) picks up a ticket to Jamaica, while D. Inievie (right) wins a microwave oven.

## Women's health day planned

By Janet Neilson, Women's Committee

Violence against women will be the main topic of a Black Women's Health Day being organized by the JCA's Women's Committee.

The next Infocus will carry the date and place of the event.

A keynote speaker plus a panel discussion will examine how women's abuse and other social ills adversely affect Black women's health. Registrants will be issued health passports to be stamped at the various booths and mini-workshops they attend, and will receive information packages on women's services. The Mobile Health Unit of the Immigrant

Women's Health Centre will also be on site.

A coordinator will be hired to plan and coordinate the day's events, and to promote it within the community. The coordinator will remain until two months after the event to analyze and evaluate it, and recommend ways the community can deal with this issue on an on-going basis.

The interim planning committee for the Black Women's Health Day comprises resource people who work with Black women to promote wellness, and includes members of the JCA's Women's Committee.

## Senior Citizens Are Marching On

*Dedicated to all Seniors Citizens  
(Tune to Battle Hymn of the Republic)*

We are glad we're not forgotten  
In the twilight of our years;  
What a joy it is for us to know  
That someone really cares;  
Meeting people at the centre  
Brings us joy beyond compare;  
Seniors citizens are marching on.

### CHORUS

Glory Glory Hallelujah  
Glory Glory Hallelujah  
Glory Glory Hallelujah  
Senior Citizens are marching on.

When we wake up in the mornings  
Oh how glad we are to know;  
That instead of sitting idle  
To the centre we can go;  
Spending time with one another  
When we fellowship or sew;  
Will keep us marching on.

When we gather at the centre  
Oh what joy it is to see,  
All the things we've learned to do  
And just how useful we can be;  
Yes we like to be of service,  
For to serve is to be free;  
And Freedom is marching on.

Submitted by Amy Nelson.



## STAFF NEWS

## Domestic violence: Not someone else's problem

By Verolin Rickettes-Spence

Domestic violence against women spans all ethnic, cultural and religious groups. It crosses all age groups, geographic boundaries and income divisions. According to the YWCA publication *Fresh Start*, victims of domestic violence include women with disabilities and the elderly. It is not confined to those who are legally married for it applies equally to women in common-law marriages. One out of 10 women living with a man has been assaulted by him. In some families, violence against the woman is an isolated or occasional occurrence, in others it is a daily routine.

Violence against women takes different forms. *Psychological abuse* can consist of constant belittling; threats against the victim, her loved ones and her property; verbal attack on her personality, attitudes or beliefs; and forcing her to do degrading things.

*Sexual abuse* is any unwanted act of a sexual nature that is imposed on another. Rape is the most common type of sexual assault. Findings from a Canada-wide survey indicate that 64 percent of female sexual assault victims do not report their attacks to police, largely because of their sense of shame and fear. An immigrant woman who is or has been sexually assaulted in the home may be afraid of deportation, especially if she was sponsored or is being sponsored by her husband.

*Economic abuse* occurs when a woman is denied access to money - even if she earns a salary. She may experience serious economic hardship when a partner on whom she is financially dependent controls her money. This financial dependency can also restrict and monitor her movement, and often establish or reinforce her status within the family as an inferior person.

Finally, no discussion of domestic violence against women would be complete without consideration of *physical abuse*. The possibility of murder as a result of beatings highlight the magnitude of the danger many women experience within the home. Physical assault against women is responsible for 60 percent of all female murders in Canada.

No member of the Black community should consider violence against our women as someone else's problem even though such violence occurs behind close doors. If we look away when a Black woman is being threatened or hurt, then we become part of the problem.

## ATTENTION EMPLOYERS!

If you are willing to help youths by offering them a job in your company, please call  
Jacklyn Newell,  
JCA Lawrence Heights Youth  
Office  
758-7920.

## Free Citizenship Preparation Classes

are being offered by  
The Rexdale Women's  
Centre,  
starting Thursday, Feb. 13,  
1992.  
Classes are on Tuesdays and  
Thursdays,  
from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
For further information,  
please call 745-0062.

## Changes to family sponsorship

By Yvette Clarke and Karlene Cowan

Many of you may know Canada Immigration will be making changes to family sponsorship. Parents will not be allowed to sponsor their children over the age of 18 under the family class. Once the law is passed we will provide more detailed information.

Over the last four months we held several information sessions with former Immigration Officer, Roman Melnyk. The program was well advertised but had to be cancelled because of poor attendance. This is quite frustrating because we know there is a need for this

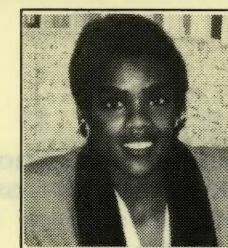
type of service in our community. We will have to evaluate why our sessions did not succeed, and think of other ways to get out the information.

As immigrant settlement counsellors working at the JCA, we help clients by providing information on housing, employment, educational upgrading and sponsorship. However, most of our clients seem to need assistance filling out sponsorship forms, and answers to general immigration questions.

Anyone needing our service can contact us at 535-4476 or 740-1558.

## JCA PEOPLE

## Meet Verolin Rickettes-Spence



I am the recently appointed Women's Abuse/Assault Counsellor at the Jamaican Canadian Association. I offer crisis counselling and information to abused/assaulted Black women in the areas of legal representation, housing and financial assistance, and education. The service is free and confidential.

I also hope to analyze the impact of existing and proposed policies, programs and legislation concerning abused/assaulted women; and to help initiate measures that promote social, economic and legal equality for women.

I am a qualified teacher of business studies, economics, accounts, commerce and information technology. I also have a Bachelor of Arts degree in history, and a Master of Arts in education in multicultural urban areas. I attended York University, and the University of London's Institute of Education in England.

My previous work experience includes teaching, course counselling, youth work and adult literacy tutoring.

I am proud to be a member of the JCA family, and hope to use my knowledge and training in order to enhance our service to the community.

## JCA NOTICEBOARD

## JCA Events - 1992

Feb. 22 Black History Month Celebration  
Feb. 23 Annual General Meeting  
Mar. 21 Variety Show - J. Brooks Scholarship  
Apr. 17 Bun & Cheese Party  
May 3 Annual JCA Walk-a-Thon  
May 10 Mother's Day Brunch  
May 31 Quarterly Membership Meeting  
Jun. 12-20 Caravan  
Jul. 12 Annual JCA Picnic  
Aug. 2 Flag Raising at City Hall  
Aug. 8 30th Anniversary/Independence Dinner  
Aug. 30 Quarterly Membership Meeting  
Sep. 20 Seniors' Dinner

## JCA Bingo

Finch Bingo County  
2424 Finch Ave. W.

Saturday Feb 22nd, 1:00 p.m.  
Friday Feb 28th, 7:15 p.m.  
Saturday Feb 29th, 1:00 p.m.  
Saturday Mar 21st, 1:00 p.m.  
Friday Mar 27th, 7:15 p.m.  
Saturday Mar 28th, 1:00 p.m.  
Saturday Apr 4th, 1:00 p.m.  
Saturday Apr 11th, 1:00 p.m.  
Saturday Apr 18th, 1:00 p.m.  
Friday Apr 24th, 7:15 p.m.  
Saturday May 02nd, 1:00 p.m.  
Saturday May 09th, 1:00 p.m.  
Saturday May 16th, 7:15 p.m.  
Saturday May 30th, 1:00 p.m.  
Saturday Jun 13th, 1:00 p.m.  
Friday Jun 19th, 7:15 p.m.  
Saturday Jun 27th, 1:00 p.m.

**Come out and support us!**

## Caribbean Canadian Seniors Group

1621 Dupont Street  
(JCA Centre)  
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11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
535-4476 or 492-1971.

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